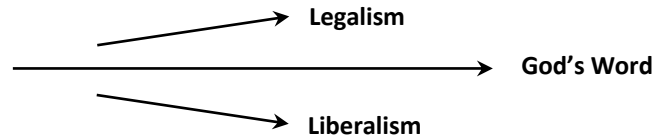


## PRINCIPLE TWO: Staying on the Line

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### What does “Staying on the Line” mean?

Staying on the line simply means being faithful to God’s Word.



- To go above the line is to add to God’s Word, to say more than it says. This often leads to legalism, demanding more than God demands.
- To go below the line is to take away from God’s Word, to say less than it says. This often leads to liberalism, demanding less than God demands.
- To stay on the line is to “tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing by the truth.”

### How important is “Staying on the Line” to God?

Since the time of Moses, God has made it clear that those who speak for him are to speak his words – no more, no less.

For example, see: Exodus 4:10-16; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1; Proverbs 30:5-6; Ezekiel 3:1-11; Jeremiah 1:4-19, 23:9-40; John 7:16-19, 8:28-29, 12:29-50; and Revelation 22:18-19.

### How important is “Staying on the Line” for us?

Throughout the Bible, we see that God’s words are powerful, certain, and good; and that only God’s words can give life.

We need the transforming power that comes from God’s words alone and should want others to hear his voice rather than our own.

### What does “Staying on the Line” require?

Staying on the line requires us to:

- Faithfully understanding God’s Word for ourselves.
- Faithfully submitting to God’s Word in everything.
- Faithfully communicating God’s Word to others.

## Questions to Consider

Read Jonah 1:1-3.

When it comes to Jonah’s faithfulness to God’s Word, did he struggle more with legalism or liberalism? Explain your answer.

From what you know of the story of Jonah, why did he not faithfully submit to God’s Word in everything?

In what areas of your own life do you find it most difficult to submit to God’s Word?

With these, do you struggle more with liberalism or legalism?

When it comes to what you expect from others, do you struggle more with liberalism or legalism?

Take some time to pray about the areas of life you find it most difficult to submit to God’s Word, and those areas life you expect more or less than God’s Word in others.